

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00  
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R 251246Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5886  
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2563

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, PEPR, FI, NO  
SUBJECT: KEKKONEN'S DENUCLEARIZED ZONE PROPOSAL

REF: OSLO 2470

1. ONE OF OSLO'S MAJOR DAILIES, ARBEIDERBLADET, PRINTED AN ARTICLE MAY 25 ENTITLED "WILL KEKKONEN'S PROPOSAL BE TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY NOW?" AFTER REVIEWING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL KEKKONEN HAD MADE IN HIS RECENT ADDRESS TO THE FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE AT STOCKHOLM, ARBEIDERBLADET CORRESPONDENT JOHAN THORUD CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE GENERAL REACTION IN OSLO HAD BEEN THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS MERELY OLD WINE IN A NEW BOTTLE. HOWEVER, HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS OLD WINE THAT THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT SEEMED TO BE TAKING VERY SERIOUSLY CITING THE HITHER TO SECRET MAY 19 VISIT TO OSLO FINNISH PRIME MINISTER KALVEI SORSAS AND HIS "SECRET DISCUSSIONS" WITH PRIME MINISTER NORDLI AND FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND ON THE SUBJECT INTER ALIA OF THE KEKKONEN PROPOSAL.

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2. TWO SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT KEKKONEN'S PROPOSAL NOT ONLY SEEMED TO BE OLD WINE IN A NEW BOTTLE BUT THAT THE BOTTLE HAD BEEN DRESSED UP WITH A DIFFERENT LABEL. THEY SAID THAT NORWAY'S OBJECTIONS TO THE EARLIER VERSIONS OF KEKKONEN'S PLAN STILL APPLIED TO THIS ONE AND THEY ANTICIPATED NO

CHANGE IN NORWAY'S POSITION ON THE CONCEPT OF A DENUCLEARIZED ZONE IN THE NORTH. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION ABOUT SORSA'S MAY 19 CONVERSATIONS, THE MFA REPS REPLIED THAT ONLY NORDLI AND FRYDENLUND HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND THAT IT WAS THEIR CLEAR DESIRE THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. (ALTHOUGH FRYDENLUND HAD COMMENTED TO ONE OF THE MFA REPS AFTER THE SESSION THAT SORSA HAD TOLD NORDLI THAT THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAD CONSULTED WITH NO ONE, NOT EVEN MOSCOW, BEFORE KEKKONEN'S STOCKHOLM PRESENTATION.)

3. THE REASONS BEHIND NORDLI AND FRYDENLUND'S CLOSE HOLD ATTITUDE RE THE SORSA CONVERSATIONS, THEY SAID, STEMMED MORE FROM A DESIRE TO ALLOW THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER TO REFLECT ON THE TACTICS TO BE TAKEN WITH THE FINNS AFTER THEIR RETURN FROM THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT AND NEW YORK SSOD SESSIONS THAN FROM ANY CONTEMPLATION OF A CHANGE IN NORWAY'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE KEKKONEN PROPOSAL. FURTHERMORE, THEY SAID, NO THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN WITHIN THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKING A CONCERTED NORDIC EFFORT BASED ON KEKKONEN'S PROPOSAL AT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PARM, PEPR, FI, NO, ARBEIDERBLADET, (KEKKONEN, URHO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014